



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *The Third Sunday of Lent*

*March 20, 2022*

*10:30 Holy Communion*

The Parable of the Sower sits at the center of today's gospel reading. We typically hear this parable and wonder what kind of soil we are. We certainly want to be the good soil that produces abundantly! But we'll also hear this parable and wonder what sort of sower this might be. The sower in the parable does not sow with the kind of wisdom we often expect from God.

*Welcome to worship today!*

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

# † GATHERING †

## Prelude and Announcements

### Gathering Hymn As the Deer

(For music turn to Hymn 2 in the Songbook binder)

**1. As the deer panteth for the water,  
so my soul longeth after thee.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship thee.**

**Refrain: You alone are my strength, my shield;  
To you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship thee.**

**2. You're my friend and You are my brother  
even though you are a King.  
I love you more than any other,  
So much more than anything.** *Refrain*

**3. I want you more than gold or silver,  
only You can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy-giver  
And the apple of my eye.** *Refrain*

Text and music: Martin Nystrom; Copyright 1984 Maranatha Praise, Inc. CCLI # 1431

### Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

### Confession and Forgiveness

**P:** In the name of God,  
who makes a way in the wilderness,  
walks with us,  
and guides us in our pilgrimage.

**C: Amen.**

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

**P:** Holy One,

**C: we confess that we have wandered far from you:  
we have not trusted your promises,**

**we have ignored your prophets in our own day,  
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,  
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.**

**Have mercy on us!**

**Forgive us and turn us again to you.**

**Teach us to follow in your ways,  
assure us again of your love,  
and help us to love our neighbor.**

**Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ,  
the Word draws near to you,  
and all who call out to God shall be saved.  
In Jesus, God comes to you again and again  
and gathers you under wings of love.  
In Jesus' name your sins are forgiven.  
God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.  
**C: Amen.**

*Hymn of Praise Kyrie*

*For music turn to page 28 in the Blue Hymnal*

A: Kyrie eleison:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: Christe eleison:

**C: Christ, have mercy.**

A: Kyrie eleison:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

*Prayer of the Day*

A: Let us pray...

O Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

† WORD †

*First Reading Micah 7:14-20*

B: Shepherd your people with your staff,  
the flock that belongs to you,  
which lives alone in a forest

in the midst of a garden land;  
let them feed in Bashan and Gilead  
as in the days of old.

<sup>15</sup>As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt,  
show us marvelous things.

<sup>16</sup>The nations shall see and be ashamed  
of all their might;

they shall lay their hands on their mouths;  
their ears shall be deaf;

<sup>17</sup>they shall lick dust like a snake,  
like the crawling things of the earth;  
they shall come trembling out of their fortresses;  
they shall turn in dread to the Lord our God,  
and they shall stand in fear of you.

<sup>18</sup>Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity  
and passing over the transgression  
of the remnant of your possession?

He does not retain his anger forever,  
because he delights in showing clemency.

<sup>19</sup>He will again have compassion upon us;  
he will tread our iniquities under foot.

You will cast all our sins  
into the depths of the sea.

<sup>20</sup>You will show faithfulness to Jacob  
and unswerving loyalty to Abraham,  
as you have sworn to our ancestors  
from the days of old.

*After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Scripture Poetry* Psalm 37:1-11 (read responsively)

D: No need to fret over sinners  
or to envy wrongdoers.

**C: They wither like grass,  
they wilt like young plants.**

D: Trust God and do good,  
settle down and be at peace.

**C: Delight in the Lord  
who satisfies your heart.**

D: Give your life to the Lord.  
Trust God to act on your behalf,

**C: to make your integrity shine forth**

**and your justice bright as noon.**

D: Be still, wait for the Lord.

Waste no energy fretting  
about the success of evil schemers.

**C: Stop your ranting and raving,  
for anger begets nothing but harm.**

D: Wrongdoers will be exiled,  
but those who wait for God will possess the land.

**C: Soon the wicked shall vanish,  
you will search and not find them;  
but the poor will own the land  
and enjoy wealth and peace.**

*Second Reading* Philippians 1:3-11

E: [Paul writes] I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

*After the reading the reader may say:* The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation*

**C: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in us the fire of your love.**

Gospel Reading Luke 8:1-21

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

Soon afterwards he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, <sup>2</sup>as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, <sup>3</sup>and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.

<sup>4</sup>When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: <sup>5</sup>"A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. <sup>6</sup>Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. <sup>7</sup>Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. <sup>8</sup>Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

<sup>9</sup>Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. <sup>10</sup>He said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that

‘looking they may not perceive,  
and listening they may not understand.’

<sup>11</sup>"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. <sup>12</sup>The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. <sup>13</sup>The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. <sup>14</sup>As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. <sup>15</sup>But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance.

<sup>16</sup>"No one after lighting a lamp hides it under a jar, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light. <sup>17</sup>For nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed, nor is anything secret that will not become known and come to light. <sup>18</sup>Then pay attention to how you listen; for to those who have, more will be given; and from those who do not have, even what they seem to have will be taken away."

<sup>19</sup>Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. <sup>20</sup>And he was told, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you.” <sup>21</sup>But he said to them, “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.”

*After the reading:*

P: The gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to you O Christ.**

### Children's Sermon

### Sermon

Hymn of the Day    Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast  
(For music see Hymn 516 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Almighty God, your word is cast  
like seed into the ground;  
now let the dew of heav'n descend  
and righteous fruits abound.**
2. **Let not the sly satanic foe  
this holy seed remove,  
but give it root in ev'ry heart  
to bring forth fruits of love.**
3. **Let not the world's deceitful cares  
the rising plant destroy,  
but let it yield a hundredfold  
the fruits of peace and joy.**
4. **So when the precious seed is sown,  
life giving grace bestow,  
that all whose souls the truth receive  
its saving pow'r may know.**

Text: John Cawood, 1775-1852, alt. Music: Jay. Day, *Psalter*, 1562

### Nicene Creed

P: Let us confirm our faith with the Nicene Creed

**C: We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again,  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Prayers of Intercession*

*Your bulletin contains a slip of paper upon which you are invited to write a prayer petition. It can be anything at all! Or, you may leave it blank. We will have a 40 second pause to do this. Fold your paper and hold on to it until communion.*

*Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

*The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*



† MEAL †

Special Music

Offering Prayer

D: Let us pray: Extravagant God,

**C: you have blessed us with the fullness of creation.**

**Now we gather at your feast**

**where you offer us the food that satisfies.**

**Take and use what we offer here, come among us,**

**and feed us with the body and blood of Christ,**

**in whose name we pray.**

**Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

*(spoken)*

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you

and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

P: Here is food and drink for the journey.

Take and be filled.

Communion Distribution

*Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion.*

*As you come forward bring your prayer petition and place it in the fire pit outside the side entrance door.*

*Please pick up a communion glass from the trays as you approach the altar.*

*You will receive bread from the communion assistant. (If you would prefer a gluten free wafer please ask the assistant distributing bread.) Grape juice is pre-poured in the individual glasses for those who do not wish to take wine. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:*

*Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)*

**515 Break Now the Bread of Life (Red Hymnal)**

**64 Bread in a Basket (Songbook Binder)**

Communion Blessing *After all have communed the pastor will say:*

P: The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

D: Let us pray:

Blessed Jesus,  
in this rich meal of grace,  
you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.  
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope  
to a world in need.

**C: Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: You are children of God,  
anointed with the oil of gladness  
and strengthened for the journey.  
Almighty God,  
Motherly, majestic, and mighty,  
Bless you this day and always.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn You Are the Seed

(For music turn to Hymn 753 in the Blue Hymnal)

**1. You are the seed that will grow a new sprout;  
you're a star that will shine in the night;  
you are the yeast and a small grain of salt,  
a beacon to glow in the dark.  
You are the dawn that will bring a new day;  
you're the wheat that will bear golden grain;  
you are a sting and a soft, gentle touch,  
to witness wherever you go.**

*Refrain*

**Go, my friends, go to the world,  
proclaim the great love of God;  
messengers to tell the way of life,  
peace and pardon for all.  
Be, my friends, a loyal witness,  
from the dead Christ arose;  
“Lo, I’ll be with your forevermore,  
till the end of the world.”**

2. **You are the flame that will light-en the dark,  
so resplendent with hope, faith and love;  
you are the shepherds to lead the whole world  
to waters and pastures of peace.**  
“You are the friends that I chose for myself,  
you’re the word that I want to proclaim.  
You are the new reign of God built on rock,  
where justice and truth are at home.” *Refrain*

3. **You are the life that will nurture the plant;  
you’re the waves in a turbulent sea;  
yesterday’s yeast is beginning to rise,  
a new loaf of bread it will yield.**  
There is no place for a city to hide,  
there’s no mountain can cover its might;  
let your light shine so that your loving works  
give honor and glory to God. *Refrain*

Text: Cesareo Gabarain, tr. Raquel Gutierrez-Achon and Skinner Chavez-Melo, text copyright 1979 Ediciones Paulines, admin. OCP Publications, tr. Copyright The United Methodist Publishing House; Music: Cesareo Gabarain, arr. Skinner Chavez-Melo, arrangement Copyright 1987 Estate of Skinner Chavez-Melo

*Dismissal*

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: God’s Work. Our Hands.**

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers Gary Wood  
Acolyte Owen Young  
Altar Care Linda Thompson  
Communion Assistants Mary Zuege  
Counters Beth and Molly Perdan  
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, March 27, 2022

Greeters and Ushers Bruce and Connie Stevenson  
Acolyte Brody Ireland  
Counters John and Linda Thompson  
Coffee Hour

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**St. John’s Lutheran Church**  
888 County Road 9, Victor, NY 14564  
stjohnsvictor.com (585) 924-5192  
The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor  
William Shi, Pianist